

Can any Rocket  
stop this guy?

Sports Day/C-1



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win a home

Page C-6



Do TV's 'Mommies'  
really know best?

Style/D-1



#### Weather

Mow heat.  
Partly cloudy and warm.  
High 84, low 63.  
Details, page A-32

# The Houston Post

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THURSDAY, May 5, 1994

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★★★ FINAL EDITION

## Gaza, Jericho begin era of self-rule



Rafik Musalam, center, is hugged by relatives Wednesday at the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza after he was freed from an Israeli

prison. The 600 Palestinian prisoners released included four belonging to factions opposed to the PLO-Israel accord.

### PLO, Israel sign historic agreement

Concludes 27 years  
of Jewish occupation

POST NEWS SERVICES

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinians stepped into a new era of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho on Wednesday after 27 years of Israeli occupation, cheering the arrival of PLO police commanders and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The signing of the Palestinian self-rule agreement after months of arduous negotiations left important issues unresolved and the changeover was expected to be rocky. The signing itself was disrupted Wednesday when PLO chief Yasser Arafat momentarily walked away in a last-minute dispute over a map.

But the prospect of autonomy and an eventual Palestinian state produced remarkable displays of good will in areas torn by years of violence.

Newly freed Palestinian prisoners posed for pictures and shook hands with Israeli soldiers. People released doves. Children in the West Bank town of Jericho showered an Israeli police car with flowers.

Israeli soldiers shouted "Shalom!" — the Hebrew word for peace — at passing Palestinian cars.

"This is the beginning of the changes we will see on the ground soon. It's the beginning of the translation of the historic agreement," said Col. Maher Fara, a spokesman for the Palestinian police force that will patrol the autonomous zones in the Gaza Strip and around Jericho.

Despite the formal signing ceremony in Cairo, Egypt, three main issues remain unresolved: release of non-PLO Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, the

Please see MIDEAST, A-22



Houston Post files

E.A. Lyons got his nickname playing football for Heights High School.

### 'Squatty' Lyons dies at age 84

Served 48 years  
as commissioner

By MATT SCHWARTZ  
OF THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

Former Harris County Commissioner E.A. "Squatty" Lyons was remembered Wednesday much as he had been described in his 1928 Heights High School yearbook: a bulldog of a man who hammered opponents on the playing field and shook their hands afterward.

Lyons, who admitted his vivid nickname had boosted a near-legendary 48-year career as a county commissioner, died in his sleep while recuperating from pacemaker surgery at Heights Hospital early Wednesday. He was 84.

His death surprised friends and former colleagues, due probably as much to his longevity on the political scene as to the fact few knew he had been ill.

But shock quickly, and easily, gave way to talk of legacy. As Precinct 2 Commissioner Jim Fonteno said, 48 years as a county commissioner left Lyons' name on many a development plat and county building

Please see LYONS, A-22

### EPA's newest rule aims at lawn order

By SCOTT HARPER  
POST ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER

The suburban ritual of mowing the lawn and trimming the hedges on a sunny weekend morning has become the target of federal air quality regulators.

In a move that would affect homeowners across the country, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed Wednesday the first-ever regulations for lawn and garden equipment and other gas-powered gadgets.

Beginning in August 1996, machinery of less than 25 horsepower — including such common devices as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chain saws, garden tillers and even go-carts — must meet stricter exhaust emission standards.

"The small gasoline engines that Americans use in yard and garden work are a significant source of air pollution," EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner said in Washington. "Reducing the emissions from these engines will help

Please see EPA, A-22

#### BREATHE THIS

Air pollution output per hour for common gasoline-powered machines compared to an average passenger car.

Machine	Pollution equivalent in car miles
Riding mower	20
Garden tiller	30
Garden tractor	30
Shredder	30
Generator	40
Lawn mower	50
String trimmer	70
Leaf blower	100
Chain saw	200
Agricultural tractor	500
Construction crane	600
Outboard motor	800
Crawler tractor	900

Source: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Houston Post

### Study: U.S. schools need more class time

By CAROLE FELDMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — At 3 o'clock, when many teenagers are racing for the school door, students at Thomas Jefferson High School in suburban Fairfax County, Va., are rushing to their last class of the day.

That eighth period, whether it be an honors class, laboratory session, internship or club meeting, is virtually unheard-of in an education system that has become a "prisoner of time," a federal commission said in a report being released today.

"The six-hour, 180-day school year should be relegated to museums, an exhibit from our education past," the National Education Commission on Time and Learning reported. "Both learners and teachers need more time — not to do more of the same, but to use all time in new, different and better ways."

In a two-year study, the commission found U.S. students spend less than half the time of their international peers studying the core academic subjects of English and language arts, mathematics, science, civics, geography, history, the arts and foreign

Please see SCHOOLS, A-16

### Boy plays cards right, stops 'super' smokers

By PETE WITTENBERG  
OF THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

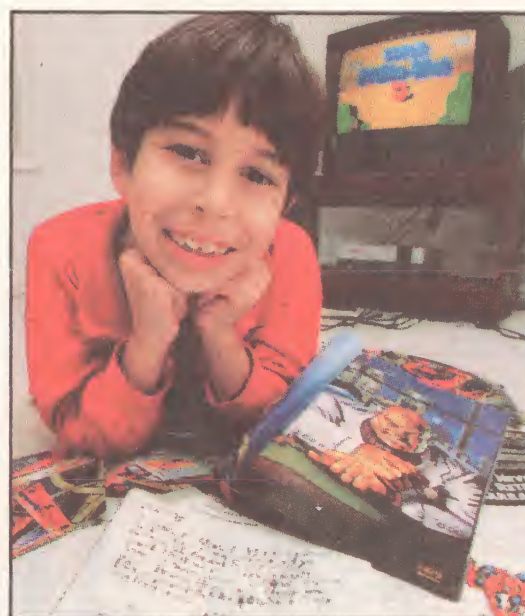
A young Houston honor roll student scored a knockout over cigarette-puffing superheroes today when a trading card publisher agreed they should go cold turkey.

Marvel Entertainment Group Inc., the comic book giant, replies to a letter from 7-year-old Sammy Blum, son of Houston anti-smoking crusader Dr. Alan Blum, in today's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

In a handwritten letter sent to the prestigious medical journal Dec. 13, Sammy said he found that five out of 100 Marvel Masterpieces cards he had collected showed characters smoking.

"Why do they make cards for kids that show people smoking?" Sammy asked in his letter. The ques-

Please see SMOKE, A-22



Ira Strickstein/The Houston Post

Not many 7-year-olds have been published in a leading medical journal.

### City Council resolution supports assault gun ban

By TERRI WILLIAMS  
OF THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

It was essentially a volley of blanks Wednesday when the City Council voted, 10-5, in favor of a resolution supporting a ban of assault weapons.

Sponsored by Councilwoman (and congressional candidate) Sheila Jackson Lee, the nonbinding resolution does

■ Bill to ban assault weapons gains momentum/A-10

nothing more than state the council's stand on assault weapons. Today, Congress will vote on the issue for real.

Despite Texas' perceived love affair with guns, Houston now joins Dallas, Fort Worth and Lubbock in supporting the ban.

But the council vote didn't come without heightened emotion and plenty of political wrangling. For two consecutive weeks, council chambers have been

Please see GUNS, A-16

#### Good morning . . .

110th Year, No. 31

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#### TEXAS LOTTO NUMBERS . . .

See if you're holding a winning ticket after Wednesday's drawing. A-2



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